IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a plurality of nodes, each node having access to a shared common database and also having local storage, a method of performing a backup operation to backup said shared database comprising:

providing a local <u>archived</u> redo log in local storage for said node, said node including information regarding data in said shared common database;

selecting at least one node of said plurality of nodes to perform said backup operation to backup said information regarding data in said shared common database included in said node;

obtaining information regarding a directory location of said local redo log for said at least one node;

setting said local redo log to be read/write accessible by said selected at least one node; and

backing up <u>database</u> data <u>files, control files and archived redo log</u> in said shared common database by accessing data in said shared common database and also in said local redo log to provide backup data.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>7</u> wherein said archived redo logs in local files on each of said nodes are set to be read and write accessible through mounting with a network file system (NFS), using the same name <u>for</u> each of said nodes.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>7</u> wherein said archived redo logs are created with names which allows a backup or recover utility to identify <u>to</u> which node an archived redo log belongs.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 7 further including:

before said step of running a backup utility which backs up said common data and said archived redo logs for said computer system, shutting down access to said common data.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said backup utility allows for a user-supplied scripts for shutting down access to said common data.